



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OES Provides New, State-of-the-Art Fire Engine to South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) announced today the recent transfer of a new state-of-the-art fire engine to the South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SSCCFPD).

The new \$278,000 fire engine features modern radios, an automatic transmission and other features that meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. The Type 1 engine rig, which also qualifies as a Type 3 Light Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) apparatus, is equipped with a shorter wheel base than previous OES engines, allowing it to be used in wildland-urban interface fires as well as earthquakes and other emergencies.

The transfer of the new vehicle to the fire protection district is part of an effort by OES to replace 21 of the 110 engines in its fleet during the current three-year replacement cycle at a cost of \$5.8 million. The current replacement cycle began last year with the allocation of nine new engines. In exchange for the ability to use the OES engines in select day-to-day operations, recipient agencies agree to staff the engines and deploy them to major fires and other emergencies outside their communities at the request of OES.

"The OES engine program is a win-win situation," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "Stationing engines owned by OES in local departments benefits the local agencies by providing them with state-of-the-art resources they can use daily to protect the lives and property of those who live and work in their communities."

"The State of California wins by having local government trained and experienced personnel available when needed to staff these engines," Renteria added. "Equally important is the flexibility that having engines located with local agencies provides us in coordinating the statewide fire and rescue mutual aid system. Instead of having to deploy state resources from one centralized location, possibly hundreds of miles and hours away from a major fire, we're often able to help save lives and property by deploying engines that are based much closer to the emergency."

"The SSCCFPD has partnered with OES and the engine program since 1986," said Battalion Chief Derek Witmer. "This program has had many benefits over the years to the residents of the fire district, the County of Santa Clara and the State of California."

In addition to replacing the 21 older engines in its current fleet, OES will use \$5 million in supplemental funding approved by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as part of the 2005/06 budget to increase the current fleet to 129 by the end of the year. The planned purchase of 19 engines with the supplemental funding will move the OES fleet closer to the goal of 250 recommended by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission after the 2003 Southern California wild fires.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For photos or B-roll of OES fire engines, call the OES Office of Public Information at (916) 845-8400.